



## Norton-On-Derwent Town Council Clerks Report November 2023

The Mayor and the Clerk attended the opening of the new BP garage & M&S store in Norton. I spoke with head office ahead of the opening regarding the PR being published and naming the store as Malton. I am pleased to confirm they have now changed all their address details and the stores name to Norton on Derwent not Malton as previously printed and published. This was a genuine error on their behalf and they respond swiftly and rectified this from the day of the opening. Big thank you to them as this had caused upset with some of the town's residents. It was a big task for them to rectify not to mention costly. Since the opening I have spoken to Jack Thomas the store's Manager and they are keen to integrate into the community and currently employ around 20 members of staff from Norton and Malton. They are also keen to support the Council and local fund raising events. I personally look forward to working with them in the future.

After further discussions with PKF Littlejohn and submitting the corrected AGAR forms for the annual accounts the Council will not be subjected to a fine.

Attended YLCA Ryedale Branch meeting. The guest speaker spoke very enthusiastically on The Net Zero Fund and North Yorkshire becoming carbon negative. Norton is thought to be a good place for heat pumps and solar panels and will not require major works for the improvements.

Attended RCIA Meeting in Pickering. The upgrade of the server required was approved and work to begin as Malton and Norton approved the funds. A member of the CCTV operators spoke in depth on the issues and arrests that are made directly as a result of the cameras. Another meeting will be held early next year.

Still busy collecting Allotment holders rent. Not accepting cash payments has caused problems for some. There are still some plot holders that have not paid. Signage has been put up on the site reminding them the fees are due. The clerk will begin contacting plot holders as per the Council's terms and conditions and Tenancy agreements.

Attended a cycling safety awareness event with the police and Jonathan Heilds our North Yorkshire Community Officer for Norton. We stood on Commercial Street and raised awareness about riding on pavements and general safety.

The officers engaged with 5 cyclists that were riding on the pavements. This has been a regular complaint from residents as this is a safety hazard for pedestrians. We spoke to another 15 cyclists and handed out lights and Hi-Viz vest ready for the darker nights. This was a successful event and it was agreed to hold another event soon.

Attended Talking Tables Training event in Wetherby on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November. It was a long but very interesting day. I felt it was certainly worthwhile and learned a great deal. It was also good to speak to other Clerks and Councillors from all over North Yorkshire and understand their issues and discuss various matters. Well worth attending and would not hesitate to take any further training. I personally get more from face to face training and events.

A Councillor from Norton Town Council has been invited to join the Rural Market Town Group, a grouping of the larger Parishes and Market Towns in England where they aim to share best practice and enable the group to contribute to national campaigning.

Acorn Community Care have also requested a Councillor to join their meetings. Councillors R King and J Vale have expressed an interest.

Councillors needed to help at the Christmas Lights Switch on event on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November. The Stalls in the Library will be open from 1pm and outside events will start at 2.30pm until 5pm. The actual light switch on will be at 4.30pm. You will be aware that the lights on Commercial Street are now in place but unfortunately 2 of the displays will need to be moved. One opposite the Council chamber due to CCTV camera being in place and one on Church Street as the light column is faulty. North Yorkshire to be notified but it is highly unlikely the repair will take place soon.

Claire Eade  
Town Clerk